

E X T R A

P H I L A N T H R O P I S T.

M A R C H, 1 8 5 6.

TO THE READER.

THERE are many circumstances connected with the Report accompanying this number of the Philanthropist, which are important to the Prison Agent and the victims of unjust prosecution, and are equally so to the community generally, in the recent movement in our City Councils, on the part of a few individuals, to have the office of Prison Agent removed.

With facts and figures staring them in the face of 38,657 arrests having been made in the city, and by statistics furnished, showing that 13,943 persons were committed to the County Prison, and that of these only 375 were convicted, these sapient Fathers ask, what is the use of a Prison Agent!

Under what circumstances, and by what statute of law and justice these unfortunate individuals float, as it were, into the dark pool of magisterial waters, and land in the cells of a prison, are questions which involve the honour, the dignity, and the character of our State.

It cannot be expected that such a state of things should exist much longer in a community like ours, or that honest and upright men will tamely submit to these outrages on the part of "Vampire Lawyers and Magistrates," and permit the innocent to suffer merely to gratify a spirit of revenge on the one part, and a love of gain on the other. The *modus operandi* of the means of committing the latter is by sending the victim to prison and keeping him or her there until the last cent is wrung from them by these Shylocks of law and justice.

Mr. Wharton, who is a member of the bar, in a speech in the Select Council, opposing Mr. Mullen's right of service as a Prison Agent, felt indignant at a remark made by the Prison Inspectors, in their report in reference to the Agent, and that it contained a libel upon a respectable class of the community,—lawyers and magistrates, by declaring that they were "Vampires," &c., &c.

The Inspectors made no such allusion; and had the gentleman read the report carefully, he would have ascertained one fact, that the application was made to a certain class of lawyers, who were in the habit of plundering the poor prisoners, and taking advantage of the distress of their families to make the most of their misfortunes. That Mr. Wharton, and others, may be enlightened upon this subject, we annex the following, as a case in point: it is one of many in our possession:—

“A member of the Philadelphia Bar, one who has amassed, by his cunning and trickery, some fifty thousand dollars, having ascertained that the husband of a poor woman, with two sick children, was in prison, and at the very moment Mr. Mullen, the prison agent, was arranging the poor fellow's discharge, he called on the distressed wife and mother, and told her that he would get her husband out of prison for twenty-five dollars, and unless the money was raised he would have to remain there. She immediately took her two sick children from their comfortable bed, and laid them on the floor. She pawned it and other articles, raised the twenty-five dollars by stripping her house, and paid it over to this low pettifogger, who pocketed the money and went on his way rejoicing. The man was discharged,—not, though, by a single effort of the lawyer, but by Mr. Mullen's influence, who, when he called on the poor family, found the two little sick children lying on the floor. The man was innocent of committing any crime, and there was no difficulty whatever in getting him out. This high-handed act of a member of the Philadelphia Bar calls for the interference of its members. Such a man is not fit to associate with men, and far less to practise at the bar in connexion with honourable and upright jurists.”

Will Mr. Wharton call such a man a member of “a respectable class of citizens?”—He being a respectable member of the bar himself.

That such scenes daily occur around us many are fully aware, and it becomes us as good citizens to expose such villany, and hold the perpetrators up to public scorn and contempt.

The question naturally arises here, are our Judges cognizant of the cause of the commitments of those 13,943, or any portion of that number, except the 375, whose offences, being of a more serious character, are brought immediately before them?

In justice to our Judges we state here, that not until Mr. Mullen and ourselves brought these magisterial outrages before them, in all their truthful colours, have they become awakened to the fact, that although magistrates are all-powerful, there is a limit even to such autocracy. It is for the awakening up the community to these outrages, that the subject matter has been discussed in high places, and as it is now fairly before the public, the future looks more bright and favourable to the poor and the oppressed.

WM. J. MULLEN, PRISON AGENT.

WE give this gentleman's Second Annual Report, as published by the "Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," from the hands of a committee of distinguished citizens, who are members of the Society, and publish such parts as they deemed proper to bring before the public. It is to be regretted that they concluded to suppress the publication of the important statistics, which showed that Mr. Mullen had a number of innocent persons released, and thereby saved to the community over \$34,000 during the year, that would or might have been required to be paid for their maintenance in prison, costs, loss of time, &c. They certainly ought to have published the statistics showing that he had saved 27,659 days' suffering which is equivalent to 75 years, 9 months, and 14 days. We are told that the reason given for not publishing them as originally given in the report is, that they would not be properly understood and appreciated, unless they were accompanied by the explanations that accompany the cases, in a journal of about 500 pages, which has been found to be so highly interesting to the members of the Society, and would be to the community, were they brought fairly before it in a way that would be understood, as they should be: which shows that the ends of justice have not been in any way impaired by Mr. Mullen releasing the unfortunate prisoners who have been so improperly imprisoned.

[We have, however, succeeded in obtaining the statistics from the Journal of the Inspectors, and we are thus enabled to give the entire table of figures for the year 1855, that shows how many have been released, and for what offences. See page 29.]

His appointment by Governor Pollock, in June last, to visit all the prisons in the State, his election by the Inspectors in August last to see to our own prison, the support and influence of the Court, and the favourable notices of his labours by the Grand Juries and the press during the past year, together with the approval of Councils, and the valuable advice and aid of the Committee, shows, to our mind, an enlightened philanthropy on their part, and ought to cause him to feel grateful to the Author of all good for having placed him in so responsible and acceptable a relation to the poor and unfortunate oppressed prisoners that it has been his happy privilege to be instrumental in releasing from time to time.

We annex the report as given over Mr. Mullen's own signature, and with it our own editorial remarks in reference to its author, who has accomplished so much good towards ameliorating the condition of suffering humanity.

He seems to have imbibed the sentiments of Jesus of Nazareth, who, it is said, while at the gate of a certain city, saw something to admire in the body of a dead dog, and said, "Pearls are not equal to the whiteness of his teeth." So does he (Mr. M.) sympathize with the Lazaruses of the earth, for the purpose of benefiting

the souls and bodies of men, all of which, he thinks, can be done through love and kindness, by endeavouring to lead them into such paths of virtue and happiness, as are found in the teachings of Christ.

Life not only wears a gloomy aspect without being illuminated by the fitful gleams of benevolence, active and practical, but its pathway is sore to the heart, as well as blistering to the feet, if not strewn by the flowers that blossom in the bosom of the humane, and warmed by the love that man bears towards his fellow men. Leigh Hunt's poem of "Ben Adhem and the Angel," is the true philosophy of the love of God, as seen by his vision, when the heavenly messenger was accosted by Ben Adhem, writing the names of those who love the Lord, but not his own:—

"Write mine, as one who loves his fellow men."

The next night

He came again, with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blest;
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

What living man is there that the above lines could be applied to with more truthfulness than to Mr. Mullen, who has proved himself to be a true philanthropist, and whose pity is practical? The good we know he does is of such magnitude, that the recording angel, when posting up the accounts of mankind in the Book of Ages, in view of what he has done, will blot out with a tear his human errors, if errors they be, when in performance of a merciful duty. His religion is love, not only to God, but to man. His virtue is benevolence, a kind heart, a ready hand, to pour "the balm of Gilead" into the bruised and broken heart; give shelter to the homeless; provide bread for the famishing; cheer up the desponding; reclaim the vicious; reform the criminal; inspire hope in the breast of despondency, and awaken penitence in the bosom of profligacy.

The moral sublime can have no higher illustration, than this affection towards the unfortunate, who are, in many instances, as loathsome and disgusting as they are criminal. Vice degrades; besotted drunkenness covers with filth and rags; nor does it require a morbid sensibility, to recoil with a shudder, that creeps with horror round the chilled heart, from the spectacle that vice presents in terrible degradation of self-earned destitution, poverty, and nakedness. The man who can overcome the common aversion and instinctive antipathy to such revolting objects from a noble love of benevolence, exhibits and displays a heroism, that no Alexander, no Napoleon, no Cæsar, no Wellington, could make a claim to. This is the heroic, on the only true and sublime scale of human greatness. How hateful the field of slaughter, smoking with blood; how lovely the field of benevolence, radiant with love, and muscled with the glad thanks of grateful hearts, rising in songs of praise to the throne of their Creator!

Mr. Mullen makes no pretensions to shining talents, splendid endowments, nor classical education; yet he is an impressive speaker, and, without aspiring to rhetorical flourishes, often reaches that eloquence which is the result of perspicuity, sincere feeling, and honest conviction, which is so necessary for the success of his labours. What he says, comes from the uprightness of a good heart. What he thinks, flows from the purity of a rightly balanced mind: it might be embellished, but it cannot be easily improved.

In his works of public philanthropy, for his mind grasps all social evils, while his heart sympathizes for the misfortunes of the great mass of men, he being unostentatious, and not vain of notoriety, makes as little noise as the effectuation of his schemes renders necessary. A more quiet worker in the field of benevolence has not been seen on the stage of public usefulness, even when demure sanctity puts on the cloak of seeming meekness to gain sectarian glory. Quiet by nature, amiable and kind, he wastes no prayers to Jupiter; but putting his "shoulder to the wheel," works out his object, only so far disturbing the public serenity, as to secure its co-operation. One man may move thousands, but can do little in himself, without aid from above, actuated by a purity of purpose. In moving thousands, some noise will necessarily be made; but in the hands of Mr. Mullen, it is a noise that dwindles to the whisper of kind tones and gentle accents. There is a great virtue in this noiseless and quiet manner of doing good. He knows it is not necessary; he is conscious of his power to easily accomplish what others might find difficult. Now, we say, there is still great virtue in this. Mr. Mullen's first efforts to ameliorate the sufferings of the vicious and the poverty of the unfortunate, in the city of "Brotherly love," so rife with hate, discord, and bloody contention, were directed to the subject of erecting a home, to employ the discharged convict and others, with a view of preventing them from going into crime from necessity.

In this he was eminently successful, and thousands have been blessed, sheltered, and cared for, and put in the way of helping themselves.

With unwearied, but quiet zeal, did he prosecute his labours, and by moral suasion, and mild appeals to a true self-interest, and the real enjoyment of life's pleasures, win converts from the maddening bowl to the crystal fount of "cold water."

With a true perception of the seat of the vices of mankind, he began with the juvenile portion of society, knowing that early habits stamp the character of man, and decide his destiny for good or evil. Let him persevere. On this field, renown and glory will attend his labours, as he extends and widens the circle of his activity. In saying this, it is under no fanatical delusion. Common sense spurns the idea of a perfect character, without virtue or benevolence, which may be considered to crown all that is good.

The teachings of Christ, when manifest in the actions of man,

is the pedestal, on which the other virtues only can stand. Without it, where is the security? He is the man of God, that practically carries out the teachings of the Redeemer, who said, "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." It may be well said of him, Blessed is the peacemaker, that prevents strife by making enemies friends, and putting an end to litigation, by pouring oil upon the troubled waters.

All the virtues are equally subjects of cultivation, and it ought to be understood, and incessantly inculcated, that love requires truth and honesty, or it is not love.

He is in the world, to give benevolence its proper enlarged definition, as embracing all the virtues, and endeavours to show that he is not a good man, who lies, cheats, dissembles; is wanting in honesty, chastity, or fair and open dealing; and that he who acts the part of a hypocrite, is amenable to the laws, and will receive punishment. At least, such is the instruction that he endeavours to impart to the prisoners and others. He teaches them to know that honesty is the best policy, and that the way of the transgressor is hard.

Mr. Mullen holds a position of human destiny that imposes on him an awful mass of responsibility to his fellow citizens and his God. There is reason to believe that he appreciates his position, and there can exist no doubt but he taxes his energies, which, though quiet, are powerful, to the full extent of their moral and physical force. But has he yet pushed his investigations to the full scope that he is susceptible of doing? Time will show that he has not. He is now in a new field of labour, and his character gives ample ground for a firm assurance that he will, as the future will bear witness. He penetrates deep into cause and effect, and when he sees the truth, none more ready to embrace it with ardour, and pursue it with resolution, with courage to grapple with difficulties, and perseverance to surmount all obstacles. He has a good conception of human nature, and is just the man for the work he is engaged in. He feels that he is in the path of duty, and success attends his labours. Never growing faint and weary in good works, wherever the moan of misery is heard, he is there,—there to act, to feel, to think, to succour. He has demonstrated, to the entire satisfaction of his fellow-citizens, that there is great economy in the office that he now holds in relieving oppressed prisoners, and that great good will come from it in a financial point of view. But can millions compensate for the heart's sufferings, souls and bodies of men, the happiness and peace of a great city, and the destiny of countless persons, that might be lost in the vista of time?

"Oh! venerate the man whose heart is warm;
Whose hands are pure—whose doctrine and whose life,
Coincident, exhibit lucid proof

That he is honest in a sacred cause:
To such, oh! render more than mere respect,
Whose actions say that they respect themselves."

COWPER.

REPORT OF THE PRISON AGENT AND THAT OF THE MONTHLY VISITING COMMITTEE.

THE following resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison, held August 13th, 1855:

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to publish five hundred copies, in pamphlet form, of the Agent's Report, including the Visiting Committee's Report upon the subject.

The above resolution was adopted by the Inspectors, for the purpose of laying such information before the public, in reference to his labours, a publication of which seems to be so necessary, in order to make his mission more fully understood.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In publishing these Reports, the Board of Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison have but one object in view, and that is, to disabuse the mind of the public, or at least that portion of it who have an idea that their duties, and those of Mr. William J. Mullen, are not of an onerous nature. Those, however, whose business or inclination lead them into the precincts of a prison, or whose knowledge of that portion of our community whose vices and whose crimes render them amenable to our laws, know full well that our duties, and that of the Agent, involve a principle of far more importance than that of surmise and doubt. It is one of stern reality; and all who read carefully the Report of the Prison Agent, will find it to be a startling picture of vice and crime, in the which however is mixed up the acts of magistrates, whose want of discrimination forms a fearful item. The evil resulting from this latter cause is, however, in a fair way of being remedied, and it is to be hoped will be corrected speedily, as the cause which produces the effects complained of is being now examined into.

In all governments, whether national or municipal, certain evils exist which cannot be immediately corrected by those who have the opportunities of witnessing their results. To the people we have to refer certain grievances, and to

the Councils others; and if we can procure their co-operation, we have no doubt our labours and those of the Prison Agent will be materially lessened, and the cause of humanity benefited.

Much of the cause of crime, at least that portion which embraces the greater number of cases, can be either directly or indirectly traced to intemperance. When this is removed, as it will be ere long, at least the means of its indulgence, a better and purer state of things will exist in our midst.

To the Board of Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison:

GENTLEMEN:

Your monthly Visiting Committee beg leave to report, that they have carefully examined the books of your Agent, William J. Mullen, and investigated his labours, and find they have been of great benefit to the poor and unfortunate, as well as of great economy, in a financial point of view, with which your Committee has been favourably impressed, having found them to be a great saving, particularly in board and costs.

In the first item of board we find a saving of \$3423 75 in the 1006 persons released through his efforts in eleven months, and in the item of costs, \$7258 50, which would otherwise have had to be paid if the cases had gone to trial.

We take pleasure in recommending to the favourable notice of the Board his self-sacrificing labours and zeal, which are so characteristic of the man who is your agent, whose chief ambition and devotion seem to be to afford relief to the oppressed.

He has been instrumental in releasing, under the direction of your Committee, 1006 persons during the eleven months, and has saved 19,428 days' suffering to those whom he has released by his timely interference, in seeing to their cases and getting them liberated, instead of that class of lawyers, whose well-known characters were enough to convince both Court and District Attorney of the guilt of any man who had employed such advocacy. But under the enlightened and liberal direction of the late Board, in supplying an Agent who has taken the place of those vampires, aided by magistrates and others, who have been in the habit of coming to the prison for the purpose of plundering

the prisoners, that state of things is now almost wholly done away with. The Agent promptly sees to these cases without any expense to the prisoner, and in this way innocent people have been relieved and protected from ruin, which would otherwise have been the case, and prevented from the necessity of sacrificing their wearing apparel, and other articles of value, in the pawnbrokers' shops, for the purpose of raising money to fee lawyers and pay the costs. They have now only to make their situation known to the Agent, of their being without money or friends, and he at once supplies them with counsel without charge, and corresponds with their friends; sees that the witnesses are brought in Court, and affords them such aid as enlightened philanthropy and true benevolence would dictate; a philanthropy that protects them from oppressive magistrates, and prevents them from sustaining any pecuniary loss, which would not have been the case, had they not the aid and protection of your Agent.

In this way many families have been saved from ruin by the immediate release of prisoners, without sacrifice on their part of time or of money. The homeless, friendless, discharged prisoner is now taken by the hand, cared for, supplied with a home, and furnished with employment, and in this way protected from going into crime from necessity. He has furnished one hundred and thirty with homes and employment, during the last eleven months.

We, therefore, recommend William J. Mullen as a person in every way competent and eminently qualified to perform the responsible and humane duties assigned him as Prison Agent, whose labours have met with such signal success, as our experience has fully proven.

PETER LANE,
A. D. HAMILTON,
JOSHUA COMLY,
Committee.

August 13th, 1855.

To the Board of Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison:

GENTLEMEN:

Your Agent would respectfully submit a detailed statement of his labours for the past month, as well as for the last eleven months, that he has been permitted to act for the relief of the unfortunate. I am happy to be enabled to

state, that I have succeeded in being instrumental in releasing, with the aid of the proper authorities, under the direction of the Visiting Committee, 154 persons in the last month, and during the last eleven months 1006, out of which number there were but 47 that returned back to prison again, many of whom I helped out of prison a second time, because I believed they were victims of cruel and unjust persecution, suits having been brought against them, in many instances, by drunken, malicious persons. Four of the above were helped the third time and one the fourth. The whole amount of money that I have received from the one thousand and six persons, and expended for their release, by the payment of costs to magistrates, district attorney, &c., is only one hundred and thirty-seven dollars and thirteen cents. A detailed account of each and every case you will find recorded in the Journal kept for that purpose. If you will examine it, you will find that there has been saved in the item of board alone, which would have been one dollar and twenty-five cents per week, \$3423 75 cts., and in costs \$7258 50; making in all \$10,682 25, as well as having prevented the prisoners that I have had released 19,428 days' suffering that they would have experienced, had it not have been for the timely interference in having them released, instead of waiting for trial from the time they were liberated until the first day of the term of the Court, at which time they would be required to appear for trial; and in most cases, I have no doubt, their innocence would have been established, but not without loss of health, time, and property, which might have resulted in the ruin of many, whose homes would have been broken up, their families scattered, and themselves ruined and undone. As it is, they have been released and protected, and much unnecessary suffering prevented. I have furnished one hundred and thirty with homes and employment, and done what I could to ameliorate their condition and carry out the instructions of the Inspectors in relieving the prisoners in every possible way, which, I trust, will meet with the approbation of the Board. Valuing the time of the 1006 at 75 cents per day, it would have been a loss of \$14,571, which has been saved to them and to the community by their immediate liberation, instead of being detained for the purpose of bringing their cases before the Grand

Jury, at an expense to the county of preparing and ignoring their bill, when they would have doubtless been acquitted, as I am of the opinion, from a careful investigation, that nine-tenths of the above persons were entirely innocent of the charges which were brought against them, the suits having been commenced, in most instances, by ignorant, inconsiderate persons, that would prosecute without proper consideration. When I would wait upon their prosecutors at their homes, in a friendly way, and submit the whole case to their calm and deliberate consideration, I would invariably find the better part of their nature predominate, and they would freely confess their error in going to law, readily consent to the settlement of the case, and in this way we would put an end to strife, make the prisoner and the prosecutor friends, and thus amicably settle the differences between them. In adjusting and settling the above cases, it has not been done without much time, labour, and expense to myself, in preparing and sending over five hundred letters to the friends of the prisoners and others, all of which I have done cheerfully, with a hope of accomplishing some good in bringing about a reformation, which has been done in many instances.

I remain yours very respectfully,

(Signed)

WM. J. MULLEN,
Prison Agent.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF WM. J. MULLEN, PRISON AGENT.

“At a meeting of the ‘Acting Committee’ of the ‘*Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons*,’ held on the 1st inst., the following report from the agent was read and approved, and ordered to be published.”

(Signed.) JOHN J. LYTLE, Secretary.

Philadelphia, 1st month, 1, 1856.

To the Visiting Committee of the County Prison.

GENTLEMEN :

In obedience to a resolution of your Committee, on the 6th of Jan. 1854, your Agent submits, through you, to the “*Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons*,” his Second Annual Report, from which you will

perceive that he has succeeded in releasing from Prison, with the consent of the proper authorities, 1244 persons who were accused of various offences of which it was found, upon investigation, they were either innocent, or for which public justice did not require their further detention.

It is thus evident that, not only a large amount of human suffering has been prevented, but thousands of dollars saved to the community by the discharge of these persons, who, had they been detained in Prison, would have been supported by the Public. In addition to this saving we must add the costs necessarily incurred by their trials, and the value of their labour, generally so indispensable to the support of their families; to say nothing of health liable to be injured by incarceration and the deficiency of the comforts to which many of them have been accustomed. The limited means of many of those who were released, had their confinement been prolonged, would have been exposed to injury and waste, and their families perhaps separated, or thrown upon the public for support. Of those released a considerable number, who needed it, were supplied with employment, and others with suitable homes. Most of the suits arose from trifling causes, from impulse, or from vindictive feelings, and needed but a friendly hand to adjust the difficulty. Of those liberated there were but about 70 persons, or but one in eighteen that were returned to prison, and that again needed the aid of your agent. Some of these were the objects of persecution, suits having been commenced the second time for the same alleged offence. An important part of the duty of your Agent has been that of a peace-maker. He has visited many of the prosecutors at their dwellings, and by inducing them to reconsider their conduct, succeeded in reconciling the parties, and sometimes making friends of those who had occupied hostile positions. In settling many of the cases much labour was bestowed and considerable correspondence necessary. Over 600 letters have been written to parties interested or to their friends. The amount of money expended was one hundred and eighty-four dollars and eleven cents, part of which was received from the prisoners released or from their friends, and the balance from the funds of the Prison Society.

The agent avails himself of this opportunity to ask pub-

lic attention to the importance of suitable persons being selected to fill the station of alderman. In addition to the faithful discharge of their duty in protecting the community from the wrong doings of criminals, their services are yet highly important as peace-makers. Many persons, under the influence of temporary excitement, or from motives of revenge, commence suits having little or no foundation, or, if any, of so trifling a character as to be unworthy of public notice. In such cases the aid and influence of the magistrate is of the first importance. His proper duty would be to endeavour to soften asperity of feelings, adjust difficulties, and promote good neighbourhood. Besides, the want of this proper care on the part of the magistrate, throws upon the public the expense of their support while in confinement, and an unnecessary increase in the labour and cost of sustaining Prisons, Courts, and Juries. About nine-tenths of the whole number committed were for causes arising from intemperance, which is so obviously the fruitful source of crime and pauperism.

Your Agent being impressed with the importance of another subject, would respectfully ask your attention to it, namely: the more ample provision for the relief of those who have been convicted and have served out their time. Humanity, as well as public economy, demand it. Persons discharged from Prison without friends, and often with insufficient clothing, have strong claims upon our sympathy, and ought to be provided with resources, to prevent the temptation to depredate upon the public, or to resort to the use of strong drink, to soothe their despondent feelings. This indulgence almost certainly leads them into crime, or into the hands of the police.

The "House of Correction" as authorized by the Legislature is much needed in our city, and the Agent would urge upon you the importance of an effort to bring into active operation the law for establishing that institution. Its practical workings would be to relieve our Prison and Almshouse of a large class of idle vagrants and drunkards, promote good order in our city, and diminish the expenses of these institutions.

There is still another subject of pressing importance, which ought, at some suitable time, to claim the consideration of the Society, that is the imprisonment of witnesses.

Persons innocent of offence are sometimes taken from their employment, and from their families, because they cannot give security, and are detained for months in confinement. If the case be tried, they are entitled, as witnesses in behalf of the State, to fifty cents per day, from which the cost of their board is deducted, thus leaving them but a very small per diem allowance. If it does not come to trial, no compensation is made them for the loss of time and the disadvantage to which they have been subjected.

It is believed that the ends of justice are sometimes interfered with by persons declining to appear as witnesses, lest they be subjected to these inconveniences.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,) W. J. MULLEN, Prison Agent.

N. B.—It appears there were in the city during the year 1855, 38,657 arrests made, and by statistics kindly furnished the Society by the Inspectors of the Prison, through their Clerk, it appears there were 13,941 committed to the County Prison, out of which there were but 292 convicted, and 83 sentenced not to labour.

In the Inspectors' Report of 1855, we find the following remarks in reference to the *Prison Agent*.

In October last, the Board, at the solicitation of a large number of our most respectable citizens, appointed Mr. William J. Mullen, Prison Agent; his duty is to attend to all cases where persons have been improperly committed, and to obtain their release. An officer of this kind has long been needed for the protection of those who are daily sent to prison without just cause. It is of common occurrence for landlords to commit their tenants to prison for disorderly conduct, or some other trifling charge, when they want to get possession of their premises, and so soon as their end is accomplished, they ask for the release of the prisoner; the same course is also pursued to enforce the payment of small debts. In all such cases, it is the duty of the Agent to make a full examination, and if the person is unjustly imprisoned, it is reported to the President of the Board or Visiting Committee, and, if approved by either, measures are adopted to obtain from the proper authorities the release of the party in confinement. In a pecuniary

point of view, the appointment of this officer is of great importance. and is the means of saving a large amount annually to the city in the expense of supporting this class of prisoners.

The following named persons petitioned the Inspectors to appoint Mr. Mullen, Prison Agent.

Oswald Thompson. Joseph Allison. William D. Kelly. Eli K. Price, Jesper Harding. Robert Morris. Hildeburn & Brother. J. K. Kane, Andrew M'Makin. Ferdinand J. Dreer. Thomas Reath, Pratt & Reath. Maddock, Rayman. & Co., S. W. Warrington. John B. Myers, James L. Claghorn, John Stokes. Vinte A. Groff. Osmon Reed, O. A. Thudium, Fana Thomson. James E. Caldwell & Co., Jos. M. Stoddart. Hugh Bridport. H. Duhring. Samuel Bispham, John S. Bispham. Wm. W. Trouche. John H. Campbell. Thomas Graham, Wm. J. Horstman. David Deal. Wm. C. Milligan. Hoskins, Hieskell. & Co., C. Cope. W. C. Coates, Wood, Carey. & Co., Robin, Powell. & Co., Butcher & Brother. Watson & Co., Thomas Watson. David B. Binney. Wm. Goodrich, Thos. Wriggins, Bailey & Co., E. W. Bailey. Paul T. Jones. Jno. M. Harper. M. Wood. And. C. Craig. Morris L. Hallowell. Rene Guillou. Fasset & M'Michael. Geo. Hayes. Adams & Co., Williams & Jones. James Rees, W. Magill, James S. Wallace. Jno. Severns. Edw. A. Parker. Wm. F. Hughes, Henry Dubosq. S. S. Kelly. Benj. Allen, W. S. Perot. G. Rush Smith, Henry M. Zollickoffer, Lewis E. Wells, W. Shippen.

The following lines, written by Laura Louisa Rees, were suggested upon the appointment of Mr. Mullen by Governor Pollock, to visit all the prisons in the Commonwealth.

“Behold, that cell! no gleam of day
Can glide in there with kindly ray,
To cheer the heart that drooping lies,
Tortured by forms that round him rise:
Oh! blessed sun! whose beams so bright,
Can change a cell to realms of light,
Reviving thoughts of childhood's days,
Of evening prayer and morning praise,
Thy rays seem angels from the throne,
Bearing sweet answers to each moan.
Though this cold world will pass them by,
Nor heed the wretch's thrilling cry:
Yet, from his radiant seat above,
The God of heaven looks down with love;
He knows their crimes, but mercy's sway
Bids men ‘repent, believe, obey.’
Shall ransomed sinners pass along,
Nor heed the prison's crowded throng,

Without one thought, or helping hand,
 A soul to rescue from that band?
 E'en heaven's choirs do sing with praise,
 When but one sinner leaves his ways.
 Ah! no, fair history's brilliant page,
 Is decked with names of every age,
 Who in their Saviour's footsteps trod,
 And led their brothers home to God.
 John Howard stands, illustrious name!
 In humble zeal he rose to fame;
 Then woman comes—like Marys past,
 First at the tomb, at death, the last.
 Like brightest star on Ocean's wave,
 The name of Fry shines from the grave;
 Her words and deeds a lustre shed,
 She seems still living, though now dead.
 Yet Dix and Nightingale impart,
 Their blessed presence to each heart.
 Our own beloved Keystone State,
 Can boast a name as truly great.
 No task can try his earnest mind,
 No one but finds him good and kind;
 The prisoners in our city fair,
 Have often felt his gentle care;
 They know him as the needy's friend,
 The one that Pity wills to send;
 And Mullen's low and kindly tone,
 Brings founts of love from hearts of stone;
 While whispering in each prison door
 The gentle words, 'Go, sin no more!'

His life is with a halo bright
 Of souls he brought to Christian light.
 To him the Guardian of our soil,
 Gave sweet reward for all his toil,
 And Pennsylvania's prison walls
 Will ope their doors when mercy calls.
 May Heaven direct him on his way,
 Till sleeping Justice wakes to say,
 That mercy acts a nobler part,
 And tunes a chord in every heart—
 Till Pennsylvania's prison cells
 Are tenantless where Mullen dwells."

It may not be uninteresting to the reader to know how it is that Mr. Mullen was recently appointed to this new field of labour. It was in consequence of the Prison Society having appointed a Committee to correspond with the Judges on the propriety of appointing such an agent. We give the Judges' reply to the Committee, together with extracts from the letter of Gov. Bigler, and others to Mr. Mullen, all of which resulted in his appointment by the Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison.

The following is the judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions'

reply to the Committee from the Prison Society, who drew the attention of the Inspectors to the subject of an agent.

“Messrs. W. S. PEROT and EDWARD TOWNSEND:—

“Gentlemen:—We have received the communication addressed to the Judges of the court of Quarter Sessions, enclosing a resolution of the Committee of the Society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons, in which we are requested to communicate whether the appointment of an Agent of the Prison Society would be desirable, and whether Wm. J. Mullen would be a suitable agent.

“In reply, we do not hesitate to declare, that our opinion of the working of our present system inclines us to believe that the appointment of a judicious agent of your Society would be extremely beneficial. Under the laws regulating our prisons, the Acting Committee of your Society are constituted visitors of those institutions, and there certainly can be no more efficient method of accomplishing such visitation than by the active agency of a capable person, who as such Committee will devote his time and attention to the humane object for which the society was instituted.

“There is an ample field for the exertions of such an intelligent agent. Many ‘miseries’ will exist in the best conducted prisons. The incarceration of the innocent or of the victims of misfortune, must of necessity be distressing, and to the relief of such cases, by friendly counsel and advice, the attention of an intelligent and judicious man could be most efficiently devoted. Many cases have become known to us, in which such friendly assistance would have prevented great and undeserved suffering. We would therefore approve of the design, and would, at all times, take pleasure in affording to the agent delegated, such assistance as our official position should enable us to render.

“To the further question contained in the ‘resolution’ whether Wm. J. Mullen, would be a suitable agent, we can only reply that we have individually known Mr. Mullen as a man of great benevolence of character, who had devoted much of his time and means to objects of charity, and to whom the praise of having accomplished much for the benefit of the destitute and afflicted is eminently due. It would be improper for us to express any further opinion as to the fitness of any individual for the situation referred to, though we feel at liberty to say that the results of Mr. Mullen’s efforts in the voluntary performance at the prison of such duties as would be properly within the sphere of action of such an agent, have met with our decided approbation.

“Very respectfully yours,

December 15th, 1853.

{ OSWALD THOMPSON,
W. D. KELLY,
JOSEPH ALLISON.

The following is an extract from Gov. Bigler’s letter to Mr. Mullen, dated Oct. 18th, 1854.

“Being made sensible of the practical benevolence which your valuable and disinterested labours in the discharge of those duties have made so clearly evident by the records of your acts, which have been perused by me with the most lively interest,—and believing as I do that the visitation of benevolent and philanthropic men to Public Prisons in Europe and some of our sister States,—have led to the correction of many abuses, and the originating cause of the improvements in our prison discipline, softening the sufferings of such of our unfortunate fellow-citizens, who often, for want of such amelioration, are prevented from adopting such a course of repentant conduct on their part, leading to a reformation of character, and restoring them to that Society whose laws they have violated.

“Deeply impressed with these sentiments, and wishing to enlarge the field of your usefulness, it gives me pleasure to forward you the enclosed Permit or Certificate of authority addressed to the keepers of Penitentiaries and Prisons throughout this Commonwealth, to visit them in the prosecution of your benevolent purposes.

“Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

(Signed,) WM. BIGLER.

We give Senator Price's letter:—

Philadelphia, Dec. 29th, 1853.

“Dear Sir:—I have read your notes upon cases of suffering and injustice found by you in our County Prison, endured only because there was no one to sit down and patiently hear their narrative, and then take the trouble to trace out its truth, to guard the interests of the public. To perform this service for the recipients of our own prison, requires the endurance and tried philanthropy of a Howard, for it is an incessant work. Others may form a system to promote good legislation and a better administration of affairs, but all this is matter of general regulation, that does not produce investigation into every individual case, nor to the measure of relief when depending upon the vigilant pursuit of many facts. I cannot, therefore, but approve of the appointment of an agent for the above purpose, and should you receive the appointment, I cannot doubt that the trust will be faithfully performed, and in the spirit of humanity demanded by the responsible office, that of relieving those unjustly oppressed and imprisoned. It is a mission most eminently Christian, and I trust may produce a higher than earthly reward.

“I am, very respectfully,


(Signed,)

“ELI K. PRICE.

“To MR. WM. J. MULLEN.”

At a meeting of Select Council held Feb. 14th, the following discussion took place in reference to the Prison Agent. We give it as published in the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

THE CITY—THE PRISON AGENCY.

 The following remarks made by Mr. A. S. Roberts, in the Select Council, in reference to the Prison Agency, embody some highly interesting facts.

In moving to strike out the proviso which is intended to deprive the department of the services of Wm. J. Mullen, it is proper to say something of the origin of this appointment and the results of it.

The society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons, the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and the Prison Inspectors, in the performance of their respective duties, saw the necessity of an agent to inquire into the nature and causes of commitments for trifling offences, that not only in subserving the cause of humanity, but also as a means of economy, a speedy discharge of such prisoners might be had.

The board of Inspectors, in their Report for the year 1854, say:—

“In October last, the Board, at the solicitation of a large number of our most respectable citizens, appointed Mr. William J. Mullen Prison Agent; his duty is to attend to all cases where persons have been improperly committed, and to obtain their release. An officer of this kind has long been needed for the protection of those who are daily sent to prison without just cause. It is of common occurrence for landlords to commit their tenants to prison for disorderly conduct or some other trifling charge, when they want to get possession of their premises, and so soon as their end is accomplished, they ask for the release of the prisoner: the same course is also pursued to enforce the payment of small debts. In all such cases, it is the duty of the Agent to make a full examination, and if the person is unjustly imprisoned, it is reported to the President of the Board or visiting Committee, and, if approved by either, measures are adopted to obtain from the proper authorities the release of the party in confinement. In a pecuniary point of view, the appointment of this officer is of great importance, and is the means of saving a large amount annually to the city in the expense of supporting this class of prisoners.

In a communication dated the 15th of December, 1853, and signed by the three Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions, they say: “There is ample field for the exertions of such an intelligent agent. Many ‘miseries’ will exist even in the best conducted prisons. The incarceration of the innocent, must of necessity be distressing, and to the relief of such cases, by friendly counsel and advice, the attention of an intelligent and judicious man could be most efficiently devoted. Many cases have become known to us, in which such friendly assistance would have prevented great and undeserved suffering. We would, therefore, approve of the design, and at all times, take pleasure in affording to the agent delegated such assistance as our official position will enable us to render.

To the question whether Wm. J. Mullen would be a suitable agent,

we can only reply that we have, individually, known Mr. Mullen as a man of great benevolence of character, who has devoted much of his time and means to objects of charity, and to whom the praise of having accomplished much for the benefit of the destitute and afflicted is eminently due.

Mr. Mullen's efforts in the voluntary performance, at the prison, of such duties as would be properly within the sphere of action of such an agent, have met with our decided approbation.

Mr. Mullen was appointed by the Prison Society on the 7th of January, 1854, and discharged the duties of the office until the following October, without compensation;—but his devotion to, and enthusiasm in, the cause of humanity, had frittered away his own patrimony, and caused him to neglect or abandon a lucrative business. He has a family, and they must be sustained.

It is said, Mr. President, that the labourer is worthy of his hire. Not always so—some men are paid more than their work is worth; but the converse is equally true, and some are paid much less than the value of their labour. Of this latter is, I believe, Mr. Mullen. After performing the onerous duties of his appointment for nearly a year under the eye of the Inspectors and the scrutiny of the Judges; such was the satisfactory result, that the Inspectors, on the solicitation of a large number of our most respectable citizens, appointed Mr. Mullen the official agent, with a salary of \$900 per annum.

I have a copy of the petition, which is headed by Judge Thompson and his two colleagues.

The board of Inspectors, in their annual report, say that “an officer of this kind has long been needed for the protection of those who are daily sent to prison without just cause. In a pecuniary point of view, the appointment of this officer is of great importance, and is the means of saving a large amount annually to the city in the expense of supporting this class of prisoners.”

The action of the Agent has verified the opinion of the Inspectors.

In 1854 he was the means of discharging 725 prisoners, and in the last year 1244 were thus released from imprisonment.

These poor, and in most cases innocent sufferers, cost the city \$1.25 per week whilst incarcerated, and if subjected to the proceedings of a Grand Jury, would add an additional cost of \$11.50 each, to say nothing of the loss and sufferings of their families.

The visiting Committee of Inspectors admit a saving in eleven months through his Agency of \$3423 in board, and \$7258 in costs—besides a release from 19,428 days of suffering to the victims.

But his good deeds do not stop here; the homes of the unfortunate are sought out, and such relief as his means and his influence can command are administered to them. In his annual report he tells the committee that he had in the last year supplied 92 with homes and employment.

Mr. President,—I might enlarge on the duties performed by this officer, and their benignant results; but I think, sir, that enough has

been said to convince the chamber that the office is an important one, and should by all means be maintained.

That the present incumbent is active and zealous, I feel well assured; but that he meets with opposition is equally clear. The faithful discharge of his duties interferes seriously with the unprincipled vampires who suck the blood of their miserable victims.

But to the friends "of the homeless, friendless, discharged prisoners, and their families, who have been saved from ruin," must he look for that reward which good works merit.

The second section provides that no portion of the appropriation shall go to pay the salary of the person known as the Prison Agent.

Mr. Perkins expressed the hope that this section would not be adopted. He thought that it had been demonstrated to Councils and the community that between the magistrate and the police, and some other influence operating, there was something rotten in Denmark. Such an agent was urgently needed, and the labours of the gentleman who now fills the position had proved him to be a Howard in no small way. As a mere matter of economy, such an agent was of great advantage to the community, saving, in the item of expense for supporting prisoners, many times his salary.

Mr. Roberts cited the authority under which Mr. Mullen acted, giving the history of his appointment, and quoting the opinions of Judges and distinguished lawyers to show the importance of the office of the agent. The salary had been given by the Prison Inspectors upon the petition of numerous eminent citizens who knew that Mr. Mullen would be compelled to abandon the service of the public if some pecuniary compensation, sufficient for his maintenance, was not awarded to that gentleman. Mr. Roberts then reviewed the labours of Mr. Mullen, and eulogized his energy and philanthropy.

Mr. Waterman approved of all that Mr. Roberts had said.

Mr. Wharton was willing to acknowledge that the Prison Agent had done much good in particular cases, for some of these cases had come under his own notice. He had read the calculations in the prison reports, and he thought the argument based upon them entirely fallacious. We must consider what becomes of a prisoner after he is released. He had no doubt that many persons thus released went to the Almshouse, and were again supported by the community. Again, he doubted the policy of appointing any individual to make it his particular business to interfere with the course of justice. Too much must depend upon the judgment of that person; and it is not the part of Councils to sustain such an agent, however honourable his motives, to interfere constantly with those functionaries who have been chosen to administer the laws.

Mr. Perkins thought that the gentleman from the Fifth Ward mistook the nature of Mr. Mullen's operations. Mr. Mullen can take no body out of prison. The person confined must be liberated by a certain process, with the sanction of the proper authorities.

Mr. Roberts said he had listened with surprise to the beautiful abstractions of the member from the Fifth Ward. Mr. Mullen acted as the advocate of those whom he thought to be imprisoned unjustly for a very trifling cause, and every prisoner was entitled to an advocate; and went on to argue for maintaining the position of Prison Agent.

Mr. Kline endeavoured to show that there was no propriety in the appointment of such an officer.

Mr. Wharton said that he thought the pamphlet in which Mr. Mullen's labours were contained, also contained a libel upon a respectable class of the community, in stating that the efforts of the Prison Agent had tended to defeat the plundering of prisoners by "vampire lawyers and magistrates." He thought the office of Agent a dangerous one, and its powers were too great to be committed to any individual.


The section was then stricken out, and Mr. Mullen was unanimously sustained, there being no votes in the negative.

The bill was then read a third time by its title, and passed finally.

CONCILIATION; OR, A KIND WORD FITLY SPOKEN.

The following editorial article in reference to the Second Annual Report of Wm. J. Mullen to the Prison Society, is taken from the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, of Saturday, February 16th, 1856.

"Sweet as refreshing dews, or summer showers,
To the long parching thirst of drooping flowers;
Grateful as fanning gales to fainting swains,
And soft as trickling balm to bleeding pains,
Are thy kind words."

 According to a statement recently published, upwards of twelve hundred persons were released from the Philadelphia County Prison during the year 1855, who were accused of various offences, of which they were either innocent, or for which public justice did not require their longer detention. What a picture of human misery is here presented! Many of these unfortunates, no doubt, were the heads of families, while all had relatives and friends, who must, in some degree, have shared their punishment and shame. It is probable, therefore, that upwards of five thousand of our fellow-creatures were, in some degree, interested in the condition and fortunes of these prisoners. This, too, in a single city of the Union, and in the course of a single year.

Doubtless there are in the community, many who are vile, hardened and incorrigible, and such, when detected, should be adequately punished. This course is essential to the well-being of society. But there are others again, nay hundreds, as may be inferred from the facts already stated, who might be saved by a kind word fitly spoken—might be induced to turn from the error of their

ways, and seek once more the paths of virtue, of industry, and of integrity. We can conceive of no more deplorable case than that of a friendless unfortunate, who has been tempted by necessity, by intemperance, or by evil companions, into some trifling offence against the laws, and who, on being arrested, finds himself condemned, despised, and without a voice in his favour, is hurried away to one of the dark cells allotted to the suspected and the criminal. What a wide field of philanthropy is presented under these circumstances! How much good might be done, how much misery might be softened by the active and benevolent interference of a few modern Howards!

“The Philadelphia Society for relieving the Miseries of Public Prisons,” is one of the best of our many useful Institutions, and although it is comparatively retiring and unostentatious, it has for years been the means of rescuing many a poor wretch from incarceration, and of cheering and brightening the fortunes of those who, sentenced properly and committed justly, soon became penitent, and were anxious once more to recover some moral restraint upon their conduct. A kind word, fitly spoken, even to the neglected convict, often fans the flame of hope in his bosom, kindles the fire of sympathy in his soul, and induces him to believe, that he is not wholly forgotten and abandoned by his fellow creatures. How much better is the gentle spirit of conciliation on such occasions, than that of taunting severity.

There is another subject that deserves to be alluded to in this connexion. We refer to the conduct and temper of magistrates, before whom petty suits are brought—suits that are often the result of momentary passion, hasty misrepresentation and trifling misunderstandings. The great majority of these might, as it seems to us, be adjusted by a kind word fitly spoken. But let the quarrel go on from day to day, let it deepen from month to month, and the consequences cannot but be deplorable. Conciliation is essential, more or less, in every walk of life. There is scarcely an individual who cannot point to some serious trouble that has rankled for years, and which might, nevertheless, have been readily adjusted at the beginning.

“Blessed are the peacemakers!”

And this will apply, not only to individuals, but to nations. All moreover, who are in authority, and who as Aldermen, as Magistrates or as Arbitrators, have abundant opportunities of soothing, softening and conciliating, should regard it as a duty to pursue the course best calculated to adjust and to satisfy, rather than that adapted to irritate and increase the misunderstanding. Nevertheless, there are many, who either neglect or violate this solemn obligation. They are careless or perverse by nature, and thus they are the sources of evil rather than good.

A kind word fitly spoken! Who has not witnessed its magic in-

fluence? In the household circle, in the out-door world, among the impulsive, the eager and the thoughtless, it often has a meaning and a power, that win, melt and subdue. To the children of affliction, to the beings of misfortune, and to the victims of despair, it is like the whisper of some gentle spirit, or the voice of a sympathizing angel from a better world. The heart and the mind are often open to such a generous influence, and thus, even the apparently hardened, may be touched and controlled. Let us then console and conciliate, wherever and whenever we can! The deeper the sorrow, the greater is the necessity for encouragement and hope. The more prostrate the human being, the keener will be the appreciation, and the sweeter the satisfaction, on hearing from the lips of a friend, or even from those of a stranger—"A KIND WORD FITLY SPOKEN!"

"THE PRISONS.—A highly interesting report in relation to the Public Prisons, will be found on our first page. It will be seen that the Prison Agent states that within the last year he has succeeded in releasing from confinement, with the consent of the proper authorities, no less than TWELVE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR persons, who were accused of various offences, of which it was found on investigation, that they were either innocent, or for which public justice did not require their further detention. This is a startling statement, and is well calculated to show the usefulness of the Agency. The work is one of true humanity, and as such is entitled to the cordial support and genuine sympathy of every well wisher of his kind. It is also stated that of those released, a considerable number were supplied with employment, and others with suitable homes. Most of the suits on which the commitments were made, arose from insignificant causes, and required but a friendly word to adjust the difficulty. The total amount of money expended was one hundred and eighty-four dollars, a mere trifle, the important results considered. The Agency has thus far been of immense benefit to the unfortunate and fallen, and we trust that it will be continued. The simple fact, that through its instrumentality upwards of twelve hundred human beings were released from confinement in a single year, is well calculated to make an impression."

[*Penn. Inquirer.*]

THE PRISON RELIEF AGENCY.

We have seen with regret that an attempt has been made in Councils to abolish the Prison Agency, that has been the means of rescuing so many innocent victims from persecution, and saved so much to the city treasury during the brief period of its existence. There are, however, reflective minds and philosophic hearts found ready to rally to its perpetuity. We know of no one, in our half million of inhabitants, so well calculated, both for his qualities of

head and heart, for the important and benevolent position, as William J. Mullen, the present agent, through whose agency there has been a saving in eleven months to the city, of \$3423 in board, and \$7258 in costs—besides a release from 19,428 days of suffering to the victims. But his good deeds do not stop here; the homes of the unfortunate are sought out, and such relief as his means and his influence can command are administered to them. In his annual report he tells the committee that he had in the last year supplied 92 with homes and employment. [*American Courier.*]

IMPRISONMENT OF WITNESSES.—BY THE EDITOR.

Another source of crime and its consequences, on a certain portion of the community, is that of imprisoning witnesses. The public have very little idea of this evil, and the amount of misery it produces, apart from the gross injustice of the practice. As this subject has become of some importance to the thinking portion of the community, a few facts in relation to it may not be considered out of place at this time.

The public should know something of what is going on behind the curtain, which, like the drop scene of a theatre, if too long kept down, excites the indignation of the audience, whose open demonstration of dissatisfaction soon causes it to rise. That demonstration is now being made, and the overt acts of many a self-constituted lawyer will soon be exposed to the public gaze.

Power, when invested in the hands of men without hearts—cold-blooded, calculating Jeffries of modern times—becomes a crime, if it be improperly used. The tears of widows, the cry of orphans, the homes of the wretched poor, broken up by a misnomer of law and justice, become with these men sweet and delightful music. With them, the crushing of human hearts is a mere pastime: the imprisonment of men, women and children, *totally innocent of any crime*, a mere matter of business.

The imprisonment of witnesses has of late become a serious matter of consideration. There is now at this present moment a number of innocent persons incarcerated in the debtors' prison, for no other earthly offence than that they happened to witness a transaction, which the spirit of litigation brings to court. The magistrate before whom the case is heard, binds over the witnesses to appear on the trial, and if they are friendless, poor and unknown to those around them, and unable to obtain security for their appearance to testify, they, along with the criminal, are sent to prison.

In the case of the late supposed murder of Mary Ann White, Shippen lane, a number of witnesses were imprisoned along with the parties accused with the murder. It may be said, the several witnesses are poor, depraved creatures, and the prison is the best place for them. Such logic will not do; prisons are and were intended for the criminal, and no innocent persons, by any process of

law, can or should be immured therein—it being contrary to common sense and law.

The several witnesses in this case were kept in prison for four months, their families scattered, their little furniture thrust into the street, by the landlords; thus ruin, wretchedness, misery and want, were the result of this *legal wrong*. When the case was finally closed, *no murder having been committed*, the witnesses were discharged, and as if it were to add insult to injury, the payment of their witness money was refused! Do we live in a Christian land?

Are we so deficient in legal knowledge, that in our ignorance we send hundreds of poor creatures to prison simply because they are gifted with sight? Is that blessed gift a crime, that the individual must be punished for it? A witness is not a party to a crime; and yet he is made so on the grounds of his poverty. Those poor creatures, now immured in prison, have their feelings, their sympathies, and their homes, wretched as they are, as well as the rich. Poverty, never until now, was looked upon as a crime; and thus, in the nineteenth century, it is punished with imprisonment. We speak of witnesses in this case; there are many men, women and children, sent hither to await the slow process of the law, to give evidence against some one who, as is not unfrequently the case, turns out to be innocent.

“The justice before whom the prisoner is brought, is bound immediately to examine the circumstances of the case; and the crime alleged, to this and by Stat. 2 and 3 Phil. and M. c. 10, he is to take in writing the examination of such prisoner, and the information of those who bring him.”

Again, we furnish an abstract of the law in regard to witnesses, and the reader will be surprised that any intelligent judge or magistrate would, in the face of this, imprison a witness:

“And any witness whom the magistrate may order to enter recognizance for his appearance on trial, if he refuses to do so, may be committed. Sureties are not usually demanded, though they may be required, at the magistrate’s discretion, but if they cannot be obtained by the witness, when required, his own recognizance must be taken.”

The next consideration of the subject is, has a magistrate the moral right to imprison witnesses? Their testimony may be required, and it is their duty to give it when called upon, *but until they refuse to give it*, they are entitled to their liberty. If testimony cannot be obtained without confining witnesses in a chanel, let the testimony be lost. Far better that ninety-nine guilty persons should escape, than an innocent one should suffer.

To adhere to a system involving the liberty of a fellow creature, on the ground that our laws are inadequate for his protection, is to acknowledge our ignorance of jurisprudence, and the philosophy of what constitutes the basis of law. As the law now exists, it is precisely what it was in the days of Pontius Pilate, as thus given by South, vol. 1, ser. 3:

“To be a martyr signifies only to *witness the truth* of Christ; but the witnessing of the truth was so generally attended with this even, that martyrdom now signifies not only to *witness*, but to *witness by death*.”

The doing away with imprisonment for debt was hailed as an epoch in the history of civilized nations. But is not the imprisonment of an innocent person far worse, for he is presumed to be free from stain or blemish, no charge against him, torn from his family—a family dependent on him for support—dragged like a felon and incarcerated within the walls of a prison, debarred that which is dear to all—liberty—and simply because he was witness to a quarrel or a riot, or an attempt to murder. And the Solons of our law can find no other way to obtain this man's evidence than by sending him to prison! The *lettre de cachet* of France, in the cold-blooded reign of the weak Louis, was not an iota more terrible than this; it is, in fact, an improvement on that infernal invention, which may well be called the “refinement of cruelty.”

The following Editorial article which appeared in the Pennsylvania Inquirer of Wednesday, February 13th, 1856, gives an interesting case in point:

A HARD CASE.—We learn that an effort is now in progress to induce the Legislature to pass an act to prohibit the imprisonment of witnesses. Something of this kind is absolutely essential. Cases of gross injustice, nay, of outrage and cruelty, have been practised under the existing system. We may mention one in point, and by way of illustration. About two years ago, an Irishman, with his family, came to this country, and landed in Philadelphia. He had with him at the time he departed from the old country, eighty guineas in gold—all that he owned in the world. It appears that during the voyage he was robbed, and by three of the officers of the vessel, who were subsequently tried and convicted. Meanwhile, however, the unfortunate stranger and his three children were arrested as witnesses against the parties who had robbed them, and conveyed to prison, where they were compelled to remain *one hundred and nine days!* At the termination of this period the robbers were sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary, and the poor man and his “little ones” were discharged from prison *without a dollar* in their pockets. The cruelty of such a proceeding needs no comment, and this is only one of many kindred cases. It is quite time, therefore, that some change should be made in the system. The Judges of our Courts, as we learn, have the matter under consideration, and one of the most intelligent members of the Bar has kindly consented to draw up a bill to be presented to the Legislature. Heaven speed a movement so laudable!

The following Bill, carefully prepared by David Paul Brown, Esq., at the request of Wm. J. Mullen, is published for the purpose of showing the interest our great men, legal men, take in the matter

of imprisonment of witnesses. This Bill will be submitted to the Legislature by E. Joy Morris, Esq., who we are pleased to say is actively engaged in this matter, and has given it much time and attention. It will be ably supported by that gentleman, in his endeavours to have a law passed for the protection of witnesses.

The name of David Paul Brown in connexion with any subject is in itself a powerful argument in favour of such a law as the Bill asks for;—a criminal Lawyer of high standing, a gentleman and a scholar, legal and otherwise. We publish this draught of a Bill, emanating from his pen, with the assurance of its being carefully read and considered.

Whereas, under the existing laws a practice has been adopted by Judicial magistrates, of committing witnesses in criminal cases, where they are willing, but unable to procure Bail for their attendance to testify.—And whereas, this practice is grievous and most oppressive upon the poor and innocent, and in some instances, has subjected them to long imprisonment, and to heavier penalties than the actual offenders themselves.—And whereas, it is cruel and unjust, and contrary to the sound policy of criminal laws, that persons who have committed no offence, but who are simply called upon to establish the offence of others, should be consigned to imprisonment and exposed to disgrace.—Therefore, be it enacted,—That from and after this date,—No Witness in any case—who enters his, or her Recognizance in such sum as the magistrate may demand, to appear and testify, in such prosecutions as require his Testimony, shall be committed to prison by the Judge, Magistrate, or Alderman, before whom any Criminal Charge may be preferred.—Provided, however, that in Capital Cases, where a positive oath is made and reduced to writing and signed by the Deponent, and setting forth sufficient Reasons or facts to induce the firm belief on the part of the Judge, Magistrate, or Alderman, that any witness will abscond, elope, or refuse to appear upon the trial, that then and in such case the Judge, Magistrate or Alderman may exact Bail of said witness, and in default thereof, commit the said witness to testify.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMON COUNCIL.

The ordinance making an appropriation to the Inspectors of the Prison for 1856, as passed by Select Council, was next considered. The amendment reducing the salaries of the officers, by deducting the receipts (\$7750) from the manufacturing department, was concurred in.

Mr. Penrose moved to non-concur in the amendment, to strike out \$1800 for the debtors' department, which was agreed to.

The amendment in regard to the retention of the Prison Agent, was concurred in.

The result of the public discussion of the necessity of a "Prison Agent," will be to call public attention to the gross wrongs inflicted by magistrates and others on a portion of the community, whose

misfortunes, not crimes, bring them within the power of heartless and avaricious men.

We have already alluded to the want of a moral standard in, and among our magistrates, its absence from their office opens the door to wrong, oppression and injustice. Until this evil be corrected, we shall expect to see our prisons full, and the whole time and labour of Mr. Mullen, devoted to the praiseworthy object of reseuing many from their grasp, and the cells of a prison.

A TABLE

Showing the various Offences that Persons were charged with, and released for, during the last year, (from January 2, 1855, to January 1, 1856,) by the Agent, most of whom were innocent.

CRIMES.	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.	TOTAL.
Adultery,	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	7	1	18
Assault,	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	12
Assault to commit a Rape,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault and Battery,	23	13	25	28	44	25	42	46	47	10	60	25	388
Absconding Apprentice,	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Abuse, and Abuse and Threats,	2	6	12	3	15	7	5	2	4	2	6	2	66
Accessaries to Burglary,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bawdy House,	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	7
Bigamy,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Burglary,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Bastardy,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	5
Carrying concealed Weapons,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Disorderly House,	0	0	3	4	3	0	4	1	2	1	1	1	20
Disorderly and Breaches of Peace,	13	5	41	15	30	8	7	6	10	5	44	27	211
Disobedient Apprentice,	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Deserting his Wife,	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	11
Defrauding and Cheating,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forcible Entry,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fornication,	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fornication and Bastardy,	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	9
False Pretence,	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	6
Fugitives from Justice,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Highway Robbery,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Indecency,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Intoxication,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malicious Mischief,	0	3	3	1	4	0	0	2	3	1	0	3	20
Misdemeanor not otherwise enumerated,	16	3	9	5	13	3	16	28	16	2	13	3	127
Nuisance,	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	3	16	29
Perjury,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pardoned,	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	6
Passing Counterfeit Notes,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Riot,	0	0	1	0	1	5	1	4	2	0	1	0	15
Robbery,	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stealing or Larceny,	20	9	6	7	16	8	13	50	30	14	27	10	210
Tippling House,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Vagrants,	7	3	5	5	15	1	2	1	5	1	4	1	50
Witnesses,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total,	84	46	113	73	157	65	101	153	130	44	182	96	1244

A TABLE

Showing the number supplied with Homes and Employment, number of Persons committed to the Prison within the Year, Number of days' suffering saved, &c.

	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.	TOTAL.
Number supplied with Homes and Employment.	11	8	17	3	11	3	6	7	9	1	7	9	92
Number of Persons committed to the Prison within the year. Males.	121	132	179	231	239	280	378	452	410	220	280	269	3191
Females.	710	572	795	792	802	929	1092	1150	1070	974	971	895	10,752
Total.	831	704	974	1023	1041	1209	1470	1602	1480	1194	1251	1164	13,943
Number of days' suffering saved to the prisoners.	1324	1154	1972	1693	3652	1907	1676	4781	1602	1325	3241	3332	27,659
Amount paid for their release.	\$12,76	\$5,52	\$6,52	\$11,84	\$10,13	\$12,25	\$21,50	\$14,26	\$40,45	\$15,86	\$27,54	\$5,50	\$184,11
Saved in Board,	\$254,58	215,85	353,64	200,52	479,36	326,86	296,11	844,30	286,38	236,74	570,84	594,59	4659,77
Saved in Costs,	\$667,00	379,50	736,00	517,50	1253,50	563,50	966,00	1035,00	1115,50	233,00	1012,00	460,00	8958,50
Saved to the Prisoners and to the Community.	\$993,00	865,50	1479,00	1269,75	2739,00	1430,25	1257,00	3585,75	1201,50	993,75	2430,75	2499,00	20,744,25
Making a total of,	\$1914,58	1460,85	2568,64	1987,77	4471,86	2320,61	2519,11	5465,05	2603,38	1483,49	4013,59	3553,89	34,362,52

WILLIAM J. MULLEN.

A truly good man, one of whom it may be said, that a "Prophet is never without honour save in his own country." We publish Mr. Stearn's letter from the Boston Liberator of May, 1852. Our readers by this statement can see that this letter was not made to suit the occasion, but was published long before his nomination as Prison Agent.

A PRACTICAL SAINT.

"Go thou and do likewise."

PHILADELPHIA, May 2, 1852.

FRIEND GARRISON:—I have just returned from a visit to one of the noblest men it has ever been my lot to behold; and believing that you, and the readers of the *Liberator*, would partake of my joy on this occasion, I venture to draw a portrait of him for all admirers of humanity.

Amid the scenes of arid waste and desolation with which this world abounds, how gladdening it is to the heart of the weary moral traveller to cast his eyes on such a bright *oasis* as the character of this person is—as you will perceive by the following description of him. I do not feel able to do justice to the picture, for while contemplating the many various results of heavenly labour, I am so lost in admiration of his character, that any effort on my part to delineate it, seems like an effort to describe the glories of New Jerusalem, or to paint the splendours of the rising sun!

Mr. WM. J. MULLEN, is the name of this individual. He was born in Lancaster, Pa., and at the age of nine years was thrown upon his own resources, to make his way through the world, which accounts, in part, for his wonderful powers of accomplishing whatever he undertakes. He learned the jeweller's trade, and soon became celebrated as an expert workman in that delicate branch of business. Possessing large constructiveness, and not so large imitation, he began to *invent*, and after five years study and expenditure of \$5000, he succeeded in producing an article, for the manufacture of which, he has been celebrated ever since,—which was a *gold watch dial*,—an article hitherto imported from England, but which he manufactures in every way superior to the foreign article, and at one fourth its cost. One of his machines, containing 22,000 parts, shows the ingenuity requisite in the business.

It was by the preaching of a New York divine that he was induced to turn to the subject of benevolence. His business afforded then an income of \$10,000 per annum, which he began to appropriate to the elevation of the race; and he actually undertook to obey the commands of Christ, given to a certain young man, which are so seldom believed in, by the most of those who laud Christianity to the skies.

During the winter of 1846, Mr. Mullen's attention was drawn to the state of the poor in the district of Moyamensing, a portion

of the southern suburbs of the city of Philadelphia. This affected district contains about three wards, and is located between Fifth and Eighth streets, on the east and west, and St. Mary's and Fitzwater on the north and south, and is considered the plague spot of the beautiful city of Philadelphia. It is inhabited to a great extent by coloured people, and some portions of it, I am told, will vie with Ann street in Boston, and the Five Points in New York, in regard to vice, poverty, and unutterable woe. As a specimen of the character of the district, I will state that the Coroner of Philadelphia, at one time, drew from the city treasury \$600 a month for the burial of persons who had *died from destitution* in this district, and that eight hundred paupers from it, were received into the Alms House in one year. A large portion of its inhabitants gained a substitute for a living during warm weather by gathering rags, bones, and offal in the streets; and hired parts of floors to sleep upon from a set of harpies, who robbed them of nearly all their scanty earnings, by forcing upon them alcohol and lottery policies. Of the latter, 1200 a day were sold. As soon as cold weather appeared, the horrible distress of these poor creatures commenced. Thrown from their miserable employment, starvation, crime, or charity was their alternative. Many preferred starvation. In one wet cellar were found sleeping twenty-three poorly clad men and women, and often in lofts, and twice *on the ground* were found *the naked bodies* of those who had died from want. At this time there were in this district three thousand persons out of employment.

Our hero learned of this horrible state of affairs, and went to work manfully to accomplish a change. He procured a large kettle, and some mutton and potatoes, and entered the district with the intention of making some soup, for a few at least of the famishing inhabitants.* The hydrants of the place were in possession of the miserable grog-sellers, who actually refused the use of the city water for this purpose, and it was only by applying to the authorities of the city that they could be made to yield. He then obtained the use of an unoccupied church, and collected as many persons as it would hold, and with his own hands carried bundles of straw and laid upon the floor, and brought pieces of old carpeting and made comfortable beds for the poor creatures. I suppose friend Pillsbury would not object to such a use of the churches, as long as the terrible necessity for it existed.

Mr. Mullen, not content with this, visited the abodes of misery, with a bundle of straw under each arm, supplying sometimes from thirty to forty persons daily, who otherwise would have been obliged to sleep on the cold hard floor. O, what a picture of glory

* It was during the time that the ship fever was raging in Baker street, and the Board of Health had ordered the street to be boarded up, when Mr. Mullen obtained an entrance to the enclosure, after much exertion, and, notwithstanding the fatal character of the epidemic there prevalent, he ministered to the wants of the starving and diseased inhabitants.—ED. TRIBUNE.

my God, let me perform such an act, in preference to all that is looked upon as splendid and sublime by mortal man. It is one of the most touching things, of which I have ever heard. It is practical religion, and religion worth having. This true saint then proceeded to clothe the naked, and for some time furnished clothing for two hundred persons daily, at his own expense.

Believing that true charity consisted more in giving them the means to earn a living, than supplying them directly with articles of consumption, he called the objects of his charity together, and told them he had done what he had thought was best for their condition, and he would now supply them with employment. He placed a loom in the church and set the women to sewing rags together, and the men to weaving the strips into rag carpeting. He furnished others with the means to make mats, baskets, &c. At the close of the winter, after thus furnishing lodging and food to hundreds of individuals, he found that it had cost him only \$30 more than the avails of their labour. Thus encouraged, he took measures to call a large meeting, which was attended by the so called *elite* of the city, and presided over by the Mayor.

At this meeting Mr. Mullen presented his facts; great sympathy was created, and the result was, that \$5000 were raised to erect a building for future operations. A society was formed, called the 'Philadelphia Society for the Employment and Instruction of the Poor,' of which Mr. Mullen was chosen President. They purchased a lot of land, and the present building called the 'House of Industry,' was completed in its present form, and opened for the reception of inmates, Jan. 1, 1849. Temporary buildings were used for the purposes of the institution during the years 1847-8.

The present building is of brick, one hundred feet long and four stories high, and is immediately to be increased to three times its width. In it are rooms neatly fitted up, for vagrants, or any destitute person to sleep in free of charge, with dark rooms for those under the influence of delirium tremens. No person, be he a discharged convict, a coloured person, or however degraded he may be, but is taken by the hand and treated as a man and a brother. Food is given him, and he can go on his way the next morning, or stay and earn a little money to carry him farther.

About forty or fifty people are employed constantly, or about 1700 annually, and about 600 in one season, are furnished with lodgings in the manner above stated: besides this, *three thousand persons are fed daily* in the winter season, with half a loaf of bread, and a pint of soup—the whole cost being only \$1100 for three months, or about three cents per day for each person. Baths are also provided for all in the neighbourhood free of expense, in which *nine hundred persons* bathe in a month; fifteen hundred gallons of water are heated daily, and furnished, with tubs and soap to the poor people who choose to do their washing at this establishment. The building is heated with hot air, and the soup is cooked by steam; so that the whole cost of fuel is very small.

Connected with the establishment is a *grocery store*, from which the people in the neighbourhood are furnished with provisions at cost, the salary of the clerk being paid by the institution. About fifty a day obtain supplies here. A Dispensary, in which over three thousand persons yearly obtain medicines free of cost, also belongs to this establishment.

But the institution does not confine itself to supplying the material wants of its beneficiaries. Seventy-five poor, ragged, coloured children are fed during the day also. These are the children taught the elements of the English language daily, and of women who go out to work, and have no means of clothing their children, so as to fit them to attend the public schools. Every Thursday evening meets an association, called the 'Pupils of Temperance,' of which Mr. Mullen is presiding officer, which owns a library and different kinds of apparatus. They are instructed in morals—particularly in temperance,—learning answers to various questions, showing the evil effects of the use of alcohol. Then there is an Association of grown up people, called the 'Sons and Daughters of Mullen,' which meets every week to be instructed. Both of these Societies appear on festival days in a neat regalia.

Thus every effort is made to snatch as 'brands from the burning' the degraded population of this district. Mr. Mullen meets with much opposition from the rum-sellers and lottery-keepers, although, through his exertions, the latter business is much diminished by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1847. Mr. Mullen is the life and soul of this institution, and performs all his services gratuitously, besides giving a good deal of money himself. He is also the founder and *President* of several societies, among which are the celebrated '*Female Medical College*,' the '*Lying-in-Asylum*,' the '*Industrial Union*,' '*American Emigrant Friend's Society*,' &c., &c. He is President of twelve Institutions, and a member of about forty others. He is a peace man, and a friend of the working classes. The first time I ever saw him was in company with another world-wide reformer, soliciting funds on behalf of an association for the benefit of the tailoresses of this city. He does not live in style himself, while professing to be the friend of the poor, but inhabits a plain and humble dwelling, which evinces his sincerity.

Mr. Mullen is also an active and efficient public speaker, attending sometimes five hundred meetings in a year, often speaking four times in one evening.

If I have not redeemed my pledge to present a glorious picture, for the contemplation of your readers, it has not been for want of facts in the case. Respectfully yours, G. C. STEARNS.

SABBATH SCHOOL CELEBRATION HELD FEB. 14, 1856, AT THE REV'D. J. WHEATON SMITH'S CHURCH.

We take pleasure in the publication of an Address, delivered on the occasion alluded to above, by Master E. J. Harrison, a pro-

mising lad of only fourteen years of age. This early indication of a spirit of philanthropy and the effort of a moral training, in one so young, reflects highly on Mr. Wm. J. Mullen, whose pupil he is, and we may say private secretary and amanuensis. The address was listened to by a crowded auditory, and the manner and style of its delivery made a highly favourable impression. We anticipate for this youth, now in the dawn of early manhood, a rich harvest which he is destined to reap in the field of usefulness. The address will be read with pleasure, more particularly as it is the joint production of "Master and Pupil."

• ADDRESS.

Respected Audience:—The recurrence of our Sabbath School celebration places upon me the responsibility of addressing you. This is a duty, I am well aware, which might be assigned to older and to abler hands than mine, and in the discharge of which might be employed the pen of the most ready writer, and the tongue of the most eloquent pleader, as the Sabbath School is a cause over which angels rejoice, and which God has sealed with an approbation so decided that no time can obliterate its traces from the globe. The Redeemer, when on earth, said, "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you." I would ask, who is it that is to occupy those best and highest mansions that are nearest to the throne of God? I would say, the Sunday School teacher, who sacrifices the comforts of a peaceful home on the Sabbath Day, and goes out into the highways, alleys and lanes, hunts up the little children—brings them into the Sabbath School, and labours with them for the purpose of making them acquainted with the love of God and teachings of Christ, who died, not only to make happy in this world, but in the world to come, throughout all time and eternity. Yes, I say again, our beloved teachers are entitled to the highest reward, as, in my opinion, they are walking in the very footsteps of the Saviour, who, when on earth, went about doing good. This is true Christianity, and they will not go without their reward. They are entitled to the love and esteem of the scholars that they have so much benefited, and I am sure that such sacrifices on their part will have their reward in heaven. They are taking these little ones by the hand and leading them into green pastures, and by still waters, where they may drink, drink freely from the fountain of everlasting life, that cleanseth from all sin. Sitting with you in this heavenly place, we are each constrained to exclaim, "He brought me to his banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children," is a prophetic sentiment, and replete with the indications of Divine mercy to childhood. As it is our privilege to enjoy the realization of this glorious promise, it should be our happiness to utter the expressions of our most fervent gratitude.

I should, I am sensible, prove unfaithful to my duty, and act

unworthily as the representative of these children, should I allow this occasion to pass without encouraging, in some humble degree, those who in this arduous work render us the objects of their prayerful toil. There are times, no doubt, when the instability of childhood render apparent the difficulties of your work. It is not, however, upon the present, merely, that you are to look. To the future walks of honourable life you must extend your thoughts, where these children will appear, to impart in a virtuous and useful example, the benefit derived from your counsel and your care. Nor must your views be limited by the horizon of the present life, for when our days are past "as the days of an hireling," and we with you shall be released from time and its toils, there is a reward for the righteous which shall be abundantly ministered unto all who do well. Nor is our journeying to that rest through paths of roughness, begirt with reeds and rushes, and rendered frightful by the roar and the bound of the lion. Oh no! the highway of our God has been opened, and stretching the eye over its unbroken length, we see in its distant vista the promise of that fulness of joy, which is found at the end of the path of life.

O think, dear teachers, of the high and lasting consolation that it will afford you, if God should make you the instrument of salvation to but one child. What must be the happiness of that teacher, when the Lord shall call him to his reward! Look for a moment at that pure spirit, which though absent from the earth has gone to be present with the Lord. When the soul reaches the suburbs of that city which hath foundations, and just as the land of pure delight rises to his view, he is approached by a band of angels. Their raiment is pure white, and their faces beam with an indescribable loveliness. One smaller than the rest advances from the little group, and accosts the stranger spirit, and with all the fervour and familiarity of a well known friend, he salutes him by his name. "Who art thou," says the spirit, "and how is it that I am known to thee?" "Dost thou not know me?" says the angel. "I am little Henry—the widow's son—a child of your class, to whom you used to speak of Jesus. I prayed to him and found him, and though the Lord took me from the evil to come, He brought me to this holy and happy abode. Come! I will show you the gate—I will lead thee to the throne, and it shall give me joy in heaven now that you have failed from the earth, to welcome you into everlasting habitations."

In conclusion, let me urge upon all, the importance of unremitting diligence in promoting, in every possible manner, the prosperity of this cause.

"Fight on, ye conquering souls, fight on,
"And when the conquest you have won,
Then palms of victory you shall bear,
And in his kingdom have a share,
And crowns of glory ever wear,
In endless day."

We give Mr. Mullen's eloquent appeal as published in the *Daily Morning Times*, of Jan. 12th, together with the response made by our citizens in the liberal donations that they gave for the relief of the destitute, that came under Mr. Mullen's immediate notice.

[From the *Daily Morning Times*.]

THE HUNGRY, STARVING POOR, AND MOYAMENSING SOUP HOUSE.

The three-lined reports of the verdicts of the Coroner's juries, over the poor creatures who die in want and cold, the thermometer being 12 degrees below zero, and that too when the earth was covered with snow, the Delaware frozen up, and thousands out of employment, without fuel, without proper food, without other means of keeping up animal warmth than is furnished by the stimulus of soup! It is under such circumstances that the managers ask the benevolent for aid, while the poor are shrinking into death under the pressure of Nature's commonest wants. Oh, that we could speak in their behalf with the voice of an archangel, and soften the hearts of those that have the means, and cause them to pity and relieve their sufferings. If ever appeals of this kind had force, they come doubly so at the present time. Now that the God of heaven has brought the severe winter upon the helpless poor, it becomes us to do what we can to ameliorate their condition. The high price of provisions, the cessation in many trades, and the want of employment on the part of thousands of those who live from day to day on the fruits of their toil, and who are left now utterly destitute, call loudly for the assistance of the wealthy and humane, and that call should not be in vain, when the north-west winds have drifted the snow from their house-tops to the street. No human tongue can describe their sufferings as we have seen it in their miserable hovels within the past week. Nature seems to deny them mercy, the earth sustenance, and the heavens comfort. Their helpless and unprotected condition becomes most apparent; the tattered rags of summer's poverty let in cold currents that strike to the very soul. The yearning hunger increased by the season, finds no storehouse in plenteous fields, no granary in nature's abundance; but everywhere the frozen ground, the desolate herbage, and the inclement sky. Then it is, if ever, that he that has more than the necessities of his condition require, will feel it to be a privilege to disburse liberally. In other seasons, the inebriate and the sluggard will meet no worse punishment for their faults than hunger, but now the penalty of extreme and unassisted poverty is death—death by starvation, and by the stiffening cold. And to these horrors the good and evil alike fall victims. It is to us a heart-rending thought that we cannot furnish more effective and immediate aid to those who in their wretched hovels crouch, with extended hands, friendless, homeless, and forlorn, over the last expiring blaze, and feel, perhaps, like that, their life is flickering away, as valueless and as deserted. The Redeemer of the world when on earth went about doing good, and on one occasion fed five thousand with loaves and

fishes; it becomes us, who profess to be his followers to remember that he said, "I go to prepare a place for you; but the poor you have always with you." By this it would appear that he has left the poor to be cared for by those who love him. Good deeds done at this season seem to us to write themselves down in an engrossing hand upon the eternal tablets of God. They rise higher and louder in the vaulted domes of heaven, than the hymns lifted by myriads, and fall sweeter on the ears of angels than the most eloquent prayer of solitary devotion. They are the beautiful tributes paid by us in homage to the universal nature of which we are a part. They bring us back from the cloisters of individual selfishness to the general chapels where we all look up to the Creator together.

Our Society commenced operations on the 1st day of January, since which time we have distributed 200 gallons of soup and 1500 loaves of bread per day to about 3000 persons, two-thirds of whom are women and children. We are expending about \$200 per week, and up to this time we have received but very little money. We believe it to be only necessary to mention facts to the benevolent, in order to get sufficient means to supply the wants of the poor for the season. Donations will be thankfully received by

WM. J. MULLEN,

President of the Society, at his Office, S. W. corner Fifth and Chestnut Streets.

FEMALE COLLEGE.

The Massachusetts Legislature, at its last session, appropriated funds to the New England Female Medical College, located in Boston, to pay the tuition of forty students annually for five years. — *Ex. Paper.*

The establishment of Female Medical Colleges was first commenced in this city, and other cities and states appear to be following the good example. The Female Medical College of this city has been in existence several years, sustained principally, we learn, by pecuniary contributions from its friends. From lack of means it has been unable to extend the advantages of the institution as much as desired, and as would be beneficial to the public, but it has already done much good, and its graduates are reflecting credit upon themselves and its Professors by the high position they have already taken in the practice of medicine. The friends of the College cannot unaided sustain the institution, and they sincerely hope that as public appropriations are not made for it, private individuals will step forward and aid a really deserving institution by their countenance and money. — *Ledger.*

Our readers are not probably aware that the first institution of this kind in the world was established in this city, and that, too, mainly through the efforts of Wm. J. Mullen. To show in what estimation this gentleman was held in the early history of this institution, we extract the following eloquent tribute to his character and labour, delivered by Professor James F. X. McClosky

during his introductory address before that institution.—After speaking of woman's influence, the Doctor says:

"The gloom of prejudice that for some time lowered upon us is rapidly disappearing—thanks to the untiring energy and unsparing hand of one whose prophetic assurances of our future success, have supported and cheered us onward in our endeavours, when hope had well nigh fled and disappointment shadowed forth.

"As Dean of the Faculty, and their representative, do I tender our heart-felt thanks to Mr. W. J. Mullen, the beloved President of our college, whose strenuous exertions, indomitable perseverance, and liberal (I would almost say princely) donations, have opened these halls on this occasion, and established Female Medical Education in America.

"This is indeed a triumph for him, and while it will be looked upon with pride by our sex throughout the world, is destined to perpetuate his name in ages yet hidden in the womb of time, and to confer countless blessings upon millions yet unborn.

"Of the well known generosity and disinterested benevolence of our President, Wm. J. Mullen, all of you must be acquainted. The present age will admire his virtues, posterity will re-echo his fame, and in the classic language of Horace—

'Exstructus amabitur idem.'

'He himself when dead, will be beloved.'

"Words would fail us to express our gratitude, but I could not permit such an occasion to pass without offering this public and well merited testimonial to one whom we all respect and admire."

The College will open for a regular course of lectures the second Monday of this month.

MR. MULLEN.

This gentleman is identified with nearly every thing contained in this number of *The Philanthropist*, and our object is to place him and his acts, as a public officer, philanthropist, and a Christian, before the public, that he may command from friends and strangers that respect his exertions in the cause of suffering humanity requires, from the just and liberal. These are the motives we have in the issuing of this number.

We give the substance of a speech made by Judge Kelly, in the Musical Fund Hall, on the evening of May 9th, 1854, at the anniversary of the Northern Home for Friendless Children.

"There is at this time living in our midst one whose noble efforts in the cause of suffering humanity richly entitle him to the gratitude and respect of every individual whose heart is accustomed to throb with responsive sympathy to a tale of woe; one who, when summoned by the still small voice of conscience whispering in his ear, —'your duty,'—words which to him seem electrical in their effect, goes forth fearlessly, with alacrity, to its discharge. The elements—the assassin—disease—death—have no terror to restrain him in the performance of his mission. The naked are clothed, the hungry

are fed, the bowed-down, broken-spirited, forlorn outcast receives advice and kind remonstrance, words, strangers to his ears; while in many instances, under the blessing of God, penetrating to his heart, and restoring him to the position of a human being. I allude to Wm. J. Mullen, the founder of the Moyamensing House of Industry;—yet, my friends, there are those in this community who find it in their heart to misrepresent, revile, and slander this practical philanthropist and truly good man.”

To show the usefulness of Mr. Mullen, and the interest he takes in every thing appertaining to the public good, we find the following in a paper, bearing date 1851, which shows that he filled, at that time, the following prominent offices, both as President and member of the annexed societies, of the most prominent of which he was not only the President, but founder. They are as follows:—The Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, National College of Pupils of Temperance, The Moyamensing House of Industry, and The Moyamensing Dispensary.

President of the Philadelphia Society for the Employment and Instruction of the Poor, which has under its care the Moyamensing House of Industry.

President of the Moyamensing Dispensary.

President of the Female Medical College.

President of the Philadelphia Lying-in Asylum.

President of the American Emigrant Friends' Society.

President of the National College, Pupils of Temperance.

President of the Howard Temperance Society.

President of the Moyamensing Soup Society.

President of the County Temperance Society.

President of the Philadelphia Home Missionary Society.

President of the Industrial Union.

President of the Crusaders of Temperance.

Right Worthy Grand Chief of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans of the State of Pennsylvania.

National Orator of the National Lodge of the I. O. of G. S. of the United States.

Past Patriarch of Niagara Division, No. 14, Sons of Temperance.

Chaplain of Niagara Division, No. 14, Sons of Temperance.

Grand Chaplain of the Grand Section, Cadets of Temperance.

Professor of Meridian Sun Class, Pupils of Temperance.

Worthy Patron of Evening Star Section, Cadets of Temperance.

Grand Deputy of the Grand Section, C. of T. and has charge of Sections in the southern part of the city.

Director of Crystal Fount Circle, No. 2, Junior Sons of Temperance.

Past Worthy Chief of Excelsior Lodge, No. 2, I. O. of Good Samaritans.

A member of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church.

Also a member of 25 other societies omitted for want of room, together with the acknowledgement of donations for relief of the poor.